Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—The petition will only naturally refer to something on typewriting or shorthand in Malayalam. It can be easily found out.

President.—If he has really sent the petition, we shall be able to know how the Government has disposed of it. When was the petition sent, this year or last year?

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I shall put a more specific question next time.

President.—I remember to have seen the petition of Mr. Pandalai for the purpose of typewriting machines or so.

Road connecting Vadakkancheri and Enkakkad.

102. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether a petition has been presented to the Diwan while camping at Vadakkancheri in 1101 Kumbham by the inhabitants of Enkakkad Village praying for the opening of a road connecting Vadakkancheri with Enkakkad;

(b) was there any previous petition presented by the people in regard to the same matter;

(c) has anything been done regarding this so far;

(d) if the answer is in the negative, why is it there has been such unusual delay in such an important matter?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The matter was enquired into by the P. W. Department. For a direct route between Vadakkancheri and Enkakkad, Government think that it is necessary only to make a foot-path in continuation of the R. C. foot-bridge built by the local Panchayat. But they find that the foot-path need be made only after the cart track leading from Ottupara and passing over the R. C. bridge has been improved. The latter work which is estimated to cost between 10 and 15 thousands of rupees had to be put off for want of funds.

(d) Please see answer above. The foot-path is not considered very urgent.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—To the question "Was there any previous petition presented by the people in regard to the same matter," that is, the opening of a road between Vadakkancheri and Enkakkad, the answer is 'yes'. When was the last petition received, not the one of 1101 Kumbham, but the previous one?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Three petitions were received in 1913, 1916 and 1917.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—So it commenced so long agoas 1089?

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—To the question 'has anything been done with regard to this so far,' the answer is "the matter was enquired into by the Public Works Department. For a direct route between Vadakkancheri and Enkakkad, Government think that it is necessary only to make a foot-path in continuation of the R. C. foot-bridge built by the local Panchayat. But they find that the foot-path need be made only after the cart track leading from Ottupara and passing over the R. C. bridge has been improved. The latter work which is estimated to cost between 10 and 15 thousands of rupees had to be put off for want of funds." Am I to understand that in 1089 the Government could not command the funds necessary to connect Vadakkancheri with Enkakkad by means of a road ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In this petition the people wanted a road between Vadakkancheri and Enkakkad and a bridge across the Vadakkancheri river, and in the petition to the Diwan by the people of Vadakkancheri they also wanted a road branching at 12/3 of Shoranur Road to Machad. There is at present a cart track leading from Vadakkancheri to Machad. Our proposals were that, if this cart track were improved at a cost of 10 or 15 thousands of rupees, there will be no necessity to construct a costly bridge across the Vadakkancheri river, and only a foot-path will then be necessary to connect Enkakkad with this cart track. We thought that this latter work could be managed by the Panchayat Department.

Mr P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—How far from Vadakkancheri town is this foot-path leading to Machad ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The cart track commences from 12/3 of the Shoranur Road.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—How far is this cart track from Vadakkancheri to Machad, how far is it from Vadakkancheri proper ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I cannot say the exact distance.

President.—The question is what distance has to be travelled from Vadakkancheri proper in order to reach the above mentioned cart track.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—This cart track when improved and slightly re-aligned will start from about half a mile from Vadakkancheri. This will pass almost through Enkakkad to Machad.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The petition was made for facilities or locomotion from Enkakkad proper to Vadakkancheri proper. The people from Enkakkad, very many

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of them, have to go to Vadakkancheri for different purposes. Of course there is a cart track existing connecting Vadakkancheri with Machad. This is of no use as a connection between Enkakkad proper and Vadakkancheri proper. It is that that the people want.

President.—That is a road in the Ottupara side.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Which the people do not at all frequent.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I think I have made my points clear.

President.—The road which the people want is one starting from Vadakkancheri. There is an R. C. foot-bridge already. So the foot-path from here passes through that R. C. bridge right up to the end of Machad. I think that will serve the purpose.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will at least that be undertaken in the near future ?

President.—It is said that the improvement of the cart track will cost between 10 and 15 thousand rupees. Then the foot-path will be useful. As such the Panchayat Department may be asked to construct the cart track since it is not very costly.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is the foot-path commencing from the R. C. bridge which we have put up and which is not being used by the people of Vadakkancheri and Enkakkad.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—No one going from Enkakkad to Vadakkancheri takes their way along this R. C. bridge.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Hundreds !

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Objections were even then raised before the Superintendent himself to the location of this R. C.bridge by myself and many others that it is not a suitable place for putting up the bridge.

President.—So you say that, in spite of the objections of the people, the bridge was put up, and that it does not serve any useful purpose.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—No, it does not serve the purpose of the people. It serves only one interested individual.

President.—Suppose we arrange to construct a foot-path connecting the Vadakkancheri road on the western side and Enkakkad on the east. Will that serve the purpose ?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—It will not answer the purpose of the people.

President.—Then why do you insist upon that now ?

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Since Government could not find their way to connect the Vadakkancheri town proper with Enkakkad by means of a road I said that at least the foot-path may be constructed.

President.—It is a thing which is already being done. That is, the R. C. bridge has been put up connecting the Vadakkancheri road and the foot-path.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It is true that some people wanted to put up a bridge close to the Railway bridge itself.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Lower down to the present location of the present R. C. bridge. There was a lot of people who wanted to have the bridge lower down and a road in continuation of that. Does the Government know the route now taken by the people of Enkakkad to go to Vadakkancheri and come back?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Some people are using the R C. bridge and some people trespass on the Railway line.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I think the Government knows that the trespassers on the Railway line are generally prosecuted.

President.—I don't think. In fact the only way to the Pulaya Colony from the Chalakkudi Railway station is along the Railway line. Many people are using that path. Strictly speaking it will be trespass. But no notice is taken by the Railway authorities.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—As long as there are no wire fencings it cannot be considered as a trespass. If there is wire fencing and the boundaries are marked, and if anybody goes through that boundary, it will be considered as a trespass.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is the Government aware of any loss of life caused by Railway accidents in this part of the Railway line in recent years?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There were some cases of suicide, but no accidents.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I think that it is a separate question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I may here inform this House that a member of the Avanaparampa Mana when he was crossing the Railway bridge was run over by a train. It is not a case of suicide. He never wanted to die. On the other hand he made a desperate attempt to save himself.

Will the Government, therefore, consider the question of opening a road from Vadakkancheri proper to Enkakkad?

President.—They have been considering it from 1091.

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